

Application No.: 09/626026

Case No.: 54942US002

REMARKS

Claims 1, 17, 18 and 41-48 were pending. Applicant notes with appreciation that Claim 45 has been designated as allowable. Claims 1, 17, 18, 41-44 and 46-48 are canceled. Claims 49-56 have been added. Support for these claims can be found in the original claims 1, 17, 18, 41-44 and 46-48.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 17, 18, 41-44, 46 and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Imazato et al. US 5408022 ("Imazato"). Claims 1, 17, 41-44 and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Vandegaer et al. US 4110286 ("Vandegaer").

The rejected claims have been canceled, and the rejections are therefore moot.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Allowance of claims 45 and 49-56, at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

March 14, 2005

Date

By



Colene H. Blank, Reg. No.: 41,056

Telephone No.: (651) 737-2356

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833